

Serial No. 10/043,016

Attorney Docket No.: 20496/315

REMARKS

Entry of this Amendment and reconsideration of the application in light thereof are respectfully requested. All issues raised in the final Office Action dated May 25, 2004, are addressed herein. It is believed that upon entry of this Amendment, the application will be placed in condition for allowance and thereby avoid the necessity for appeal. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment and reconsideration in light thereof are respectfully requested.

Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-5, 7-8, 11-13, and 16-17 will be pending. Of the foregoing, claims 1 and 13 are independent.

In the Final Office Action dated May 25, 2004, the Examiner objected to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. 1.84(p)(5) as failing to provide a reference sign for the "force absorbing surface" recited in claim 7. Accompanying this Amendment is a replacement drawing sheet for Fig. 2 which shows the reference numeral "12" and a lead line for the force absorbing surface. Additionally, this specification has been amended on page 6 to refer to the numeral "12" shown in the replacement drawing sheet. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

In the final Office Action dated May 25, 2004, the Examiner objected to the abstract because of legal phraseology used therein. The Examiner also suggested a new title for the application. By means of the present Amendment, a new Abstract of the Disclosure is presented for entry herein. The new title suggested by the Examiner also replaces the former title. Accordingly, it is requested that any objection the Examiner may have to the abstract or the title be withdrawn.

Serial No. 10/043,016

Attorney Docket No.: 20496/315

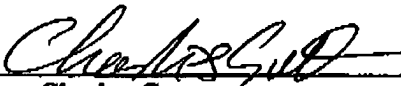
In the Final Office Action dated May 25, 2004, the Examiner rejected most of the claims as being anticipated by either DE 909,393 or US 1,441,737, or else as being obvious from one of the foregoing references taken in combination with other prior art. However, the Examiner indicated that claim 10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of this claim and any intervening claims.

By means of the present Amendment, claims 1 and 13 have been amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 6 and 10. Accordingly, it is believed that claims 1 and 13 are now allowable over the prior art. Additionally, as all other claims in the application depend from claims 1 or 13, it is believed that they too are allowable over the prior art of record.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that the present application is now in condition for allowance and a favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested. If there are any further difficulties with this application, the Examiner is urged to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below so that this application can be placed in condition for allowance as quickly as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 
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Date: November 17, 2004

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Enclosures: Replacement Sheet for Fig. 2
New Abstract of the Disclosure